

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIBREV 01858 171032Z

71

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 OES-06 INT-05 FEA-01

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R 170940Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8315

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR GB RP

SUBJECT: FILIPINO DELEGATION VISITS GABON

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED:

1. AS FURTHER FOLLOW UP TO BONGO STATE VISIT TO PHILIPPINES, FILIPINO DELEGATION HEADED BY ENERGY DEVELOPMENT BOARD CHAIRMAN GERONIMO VELASCO VISITED GABON SEPT 4-12 AND SIGNED PAIR OF ACCORDS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS, AGREEMENTS COVER " ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL" AND " COMMERCIAL" COOPERATION RESPECTIVELY, BUT NO DETAILS GIVEN. DELEGATION, WHICH TOTALED ABOUT 25 MEMBERS AND INCLUDED NUMBER OF FILIPINO BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES, ALTERNATED NEGOTIATING SESSIONS WITH TOUR OF GABONESE INTERIOR CITIES.

END UNCLASSIFIED. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE:

2. LOCAL BANKING SOURCE TELLS US THAT AGREEMENTS ARE EXTREMELY GENERAL IN NATURE, MERELY PROVIDING FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH SPECIFIC DEALS CAN SUBSEQUENTLY BE

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MADE. SOURCE ADDS THAT PROSPECTS FOR SUBSTANTIAL

COOPERATION LIKELY TO BE LIMITED BY WIDELY DIVERGENT
PERCEPTIONS OF RELATIONSHIP ON GABONESE AND FILIPINO
SIDES, WITH FORMER SEEKING SAME TYPE OF CREDITS PROVIDED
BY WESTERN SUPPLIERS AND LATTER LOOKING ON GABON
AS OIL RICH STATE WHICH CAN AND SHOULD PAY FOR GOODS
AND SERVICES IN CASH OR CRUDE OIL. UNLESS PERCEPTION
GAP CAN BE BRIDGED, SOURCE DOUBTS THAT BILATERAL RE-
LATIONSHIP WILL EVER HAVE MUCH ECONOMIC SUBSTANCE. STEIGMAN

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